

TITLE 17: CONSERVATION  
CHAPTER I: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SUBCHAPTER b: FISH AND WILDLIFE

PART 880  
THE TAKING OF REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

## Section

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AUTHORITY: Implementing and authorized by Sections 5/10-30, 10-35, 10-60, 10-115, 20-5 and 20-90 of the Fish and Aquatic Life Code [515 ILCS 5/10-30, 10-35, 10-60, 10-115, 20-5 and 20-90] and the Aquaculture Development Act [20 ILCS 215/1 et seq.] and P.A. 86-1453, effective December 12, 1991.

SOURCE: Adopted at 16 Ill. Reg. 109, effective December 20, 1991; recodified by changing the agency name from Department of Conservation to Department of Natural Resources at 20 Ill. Reg. 9389; amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 14852, effective August 3, 1998.

**Section 880.10 Prohibition of Commercial Use**

It is unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, offer to buy or sell or barter any reptile, amphibian, or their eggs or parts taken from the wild in Illinois for commercial purposes unless otherwise authorized by statute.

**Section 880.20 Methods of Taking and Capture**

- a) Only those persons who hold a valid sport fishing license or a valid Sportsmen's Combination License may take or attempt to take turtles and/or frogs [515 ILCS 5/20-5].
- b) Turtles may be taken only by hand, hook and line, or landing net. For the purposes of this Part a landing net is defined as a hand-held net with no greater than 1.5 inch bar measurement netting, an opening of not greater than 5 feet in diameter, and a handle.

- c) Bullfrogs may be taken only between June 15 and August 31, both dates inclusive. Bullfrogs may be taken only by hook and line, gig, pitchfork, spear, bow and arrow, hand, or landing net.
- d) No person shall take bullfrogs by commercial fishing devices, including dip nets, hoop nets, traps or seines, or by the use of firearms, airguns or gas guns.
- e) No person shall take or possess any species of reptile or amphibian listed as endangered or threatened in Illinois (17 Ill. Adm. Code 1010), except as provided by 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1070.
- f) All other species of reptiles and amphibians may be captured by any device or method which is not designed or intended to bring about the death or serious injury of the animals captured. This shall not restrict the use of legally taken reptiles or amphibians as bait by anglers.
- g) Any captured reptiles or amphibians which are not to be retained in the possession of the captor shall be immediately released at the site of capture.

(Source: Amended at 22 Ill. Reg. 14852, effective August 3, 1998)

### **Section 880.30 Daily Catch and Possession Limits**

The daily catch limit for reptiles is eight (8) of each species and for amphibians is eight (8) of each species. The possession limit for reptiles is sixteen (16) of each species and for amphibians is sixteen (16) of each species.

### **Section 880.40 Captive Born Reptiles and Amphibians**

Captive born offspring of a legally held reptile or amphibian, not intended for commercial purposes, is exempt from the possession limits of Section 880.30 for a period of ninety (90) days.

### **Section 880.50 Protection of Habitat**

Habitat features which are disturbed in the course of a search for reptiles and amphibians shall be returned to as near their original position and condition as possible, e.g. overturned stones and logs shall be restored to their original locations.

### **Section 880.60 Areas Closed to the Taking of Reptiles and Amphibians**

Unless otherwise allowed by statute or administrative rule, the taking of reptiles and amphibians is prohibited in the following areas: the LaRue-Pine Hills/Otter Pond Research Natural Area in Union

County. The closed area shall include the Research Natural Area as designated by the U.S. Forest Service and the right-of-way of Forest Road 345 from the intersection of Forest Road 345 with Forest Road 236 to the intersection of Forest Road 345 with the Missouri Pacific railroad tracks.

(Source: Added at 22 Ill. Reg. 14852, effective August 3, 1998)

#### **Section 880.70 Additional Protective Regulations**

Except as otherwise allowed by statute or administrative rule, taking or possession of the following species of reptiles and amphibians is prohibited: copperbelly watersnake (*Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*) in Edwards, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Lawrence, Massac, Pope, Pulaski, Richland, Saline, Wabash, Wayne and White counties.

(Source: Added at 22 Ill. Reg. 14852. effective August 3, 1998)